



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.7946 | FAX (517) 373.2678
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/stamas/

For Immediate Release
July 26, 2006

Contact: Chad Wing
(517) 373-7946

Senate approves \$150,000 to address cormorant problem

LANSING – The Michigan Senate approved \$150,000 in funding Wednesday to help control the double-crested cormorant, one of the most significant impacts on fisheries in the state, said Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland.

“The harm done by the double-crested cormorant is undeniable,” Stamas said. “This funding will help the Michigan Department of Natural Resources control the devastating effects of this bird.”

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources budget approved by the Senate will create a new requirement for the DNR to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services Agency in a partnership to control cormorants.

The funding is earmarked for focus on priority areas throughout the state and requires the federal government to at least match the state funding. Language in the budget will also require the DNR to report back to the Legislature on the impact it has had on cormorants and use of the funds.

Focus areas of current DNR efforts include Long and Grand lakes in Alpena County, Potagannissing Bay on Drummond Island, Brevoort Lake, Manistique and South Manistique lakes in Mackinac County, Indian Lake in Schoolcraft County, Lake Huron off Rockport in Alpena County, the Les Cheneaux Islands, Thunder Bay and Bays De Noc.

The bird’s increasing population has had adverse effects on the numbers of recreational and commercial fish.

Currently, there is a growing population of the bird in the Ludington area along Lake Michigan. The Little Manistee, Manistee and Pere Marquette rivers all feed into the lake in that area and provide some of the best steelhead, salmon and walleye spawning rivers in northern Michigan.

The birds also have established a nesting ground on the Consumers Energy Ludington Pump Storage Facility break wall, causing environmental damage and depleting the local fish population.

The double-crested cormorant can go underwater for food. It feeds on small fish and can consume up to a pound and a half of fish a day, typically eating small steelhead, salmon and walleye.

Earlier this year Stamas introduced a resolution urging the DNR to work with the federal government and neighboring Great Lakes states to implement an aggressive program to control the double-crested cormorant.

###